

the Earth, and then it is put in a pipe, it goes to a refinery, put in another pipe, goes to a dock, put on a ship, comes to this country on a tanker, is offloaded into a refinery, goes on a pipeline, perhaps goes to a truck, gets sent to a gasoline station, pumped through an underground tank and pumped through a hose into your car, and no one has ever seen it. Nobody has ever seen that gallon of gasoline. That is the way it works. But literally in this country our economy and our future are held prisoner by this unbelievable dependence on foreign oil.

It affects everything we do. It affects our foreign policy. We have gone to war over oil. It affects everything. So the question for this President and this Congress, not tomorrow but today, is how do you reach some sort of independence? How do we make our country less dependent on something we desperately need for our future economic opportunity and growth, less dependent on oil from overseas? I know there are as many suggestions on how to write a new energy policy as there are Members of the Senate. But I do not believe, with all due respect, that there is a Republican or Democratic way to write an energy policy or a conservative or liberal way to write an energy policy. I think there is a right way and a wrong way and a smart way and a pretty stupid way. But it seems to me that we need to begin to find the best of what each of our political parties has to offer in terms of an energy policy and find a way to construct, from the best of what both have to offer, something to assure us that our economy will have the energy that it needs for the future.

This is not some academic discussion, as is often the case on the floor of the Senate. There are people who, this winter, do not have enough money to heat their homes because prices are too high. That does not, by the way, have anything to do with supply and demand. You see these profits, the highest profits in history for the oil companies. You don't see gasoline lines. Has anybody seen any gas lines around here, people lining up for hours to get gas? No. There is no shortage. In fact, something came across my desk yesterday—an oil company is shutting down a portion of its refinery because it wants to restrict supply. Why? It wants to keep prices where they are. They like these high prices.

There are a lot of ramifications. There are enormous riches for the big oil companies and enormous pain for the American consumer, and that is the short term. The question in the short term is always: Who is going to stand up for the American consumer? I introduced a bill, along with my colleague, Senator DODD, from Connecticut, a couple of months ago, that would have imposed a windfall profit tax on these oil company profits, only on the profits above \$40 a barrel. Incidentally, last year, 2004, represented the highest profits in history at \$40 a barrel. We proposed a windfall profits tax at 50 percent on profits over \$40 a barrel, with all the proceeds to be sent

back to the American consumers as a rebate.

Interestingly enough, I guess it was 65 Senators voted against that because they do not want to take money from the oil industry and provide it as a rebate to consumers. I think you ought to even the score a bit. There is no justification for these profits. These companies have not exhibited additional expenses. These are extraordinary profits, the highest in the history of corporate America, and all the American consumers are feeling the pain. That is the short term. We have tried, in the short term, to address it with the windfall profits tax rebate bill and we have not been successful. But that is not over.

Then in the intermediate to longer term, we have to do more. We need a real plan for energy independence, a real plan, one that addresses alternative fuels and renewable fuels, enhances the recovery of fossil fuels in a way that is protective of our environment. We need to be doing all of that together, reaching a set of goals that our country establishes. You can't do this without leadership.

So my hope is that, both from the White House and also from here, we will begin to see some leadership toward energy independence—I mean some real leadership. Talking about it is one thing. It doesn't mean anything. People have been talking about this forever. It is a waste of breath unless it results in real planning.

I have mentioned before the book McCullough wrote about John Adams. It was a fascinating book and had lingering questions from John Adams as he was traveling around the world representing this new country they were trying to form. He spent time in France and England. He would write back to his wife Abigail. At least as I read the book, it would seem that he would write to Abigail and lament to her in his letters: Where will the leadership come from to form this new country of ours? Where will the leadership emerge to put this new country we want to form together? Then in the next letter he would write: Well, then, there is really only us—there's me, there's George Washington, there's Ben Franklin, there's Thomas Jefferson, there's Madison, there's Mason—and of course in the rearview mirror of history we know the “only us” now represents some of the greatest human talent ever assembled. But every generation of Americans asks the identical question: Where will the leadership come from? Where will the leadership emerge, real leadership, to steer this country in the right direction?

With respect to energy policy which relates to both our economic security and our national security, time is wasting, and there is not a more important subject for us to address, beginning now. The question remains: Where will the leadership come from? That question is addressed to both the White House and the Congress, asking for, finally, what the best of both political parties ought to have to offer this country.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON MENTAL RETARDATION AWARD WINNERS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to join the Illinois chapter of the American Association on Mental Retardation, AAMR, in recognizing the recipients of the 2006 Direct Service Professional Award. These individuals are being honored for their outstanding efforts to enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities in Illinois.

These recipients have displayed a strong sense of humanity and professionalism in their work with persons with disabilities. Their efforts have inspired the lives of those for whom they care, and they are an inspiration to me as well. They have set a fine example of community service for all Americans to follow.

These honorees spend more than 50 percent of their time at work in direct, personal involvement with their clients. They are not primarily managers or supervisors. They are direct service workers at the forefront of America's effort to care for people with special needs. They do their work every day with little public recognition, providing much needed care and assistance that is unknown except to those with whom they work.

It is my honor and privilege to recognize the Illinois recipients of AAMR's 2006 Direct Service Professional Award: Cheryl Case, Lisa Cutter, Jane Flores, Cindy Block, Patricia Bzdyl, Don Collins, Judy Hicks, Holly Spence, Della Reese, Sarah McRae, and Kathy Slimmer.

I know my fellow Senators will join me in congratulating the winners of the 2006 Direct Service Professional Award. I applaud their dedication and thank them for their service.

ARMY SPECIALIST PATRICK HERRIED

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, in February 6, 2006, one of South Dakota's sons made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Iraq. Army SP Patrick Herried died when an improvised explosive device detonated under the armored military vehicle he was driving. He was a member of the 4th Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team based in Fort Wainwright, AK.

Specialist Herried was a 1994 graduate of Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls and was fondly remembered by his classmates and teachers. Like many South Dakotans, he was passionate about sports and the outdoors. He was a member of the Roosevelt High School football team and enjoyed skateboarding and mountain biking.

Specialist Herried joined the Army in the hopes that it would lead to a better career and even college. His mother, Rita, agreed that the Army had a positive impact on her son. “He was just a good kid,” she said. “Really quiet, but very directed since he's been in the service. He was a good son.”

Patrick's family and friends are in my thoughts and prayers during this trying time. Coming to terms with the

loss of any soldier who gives their life in defense of freedom is difficult. While we are awed by Patrick's selfless sacrifice, we are reminded that his life ended much too soon. It is my sincere hope that Patrick's family may take some small measure of comfort knowing our Nation is eternally grateful for his dedicated service to our country.

CORPORAL JESSE ZAMORA

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of CPL Jesse Zamora. I regret to inform my colleagues that Corporal Zamora was killed in Beiji, Iraq on February 3, 2006.

Those close to Corporal Zamora recognized an indomitable love of country and a passionate desire to serve his Nation in the military at an early age. Friends and family recall that as a young man, Corporal Zamora would often drive into the desert near Las Cruces in his pickup to practice his marksmanship. This simple custom is indicative of his discipline and certainly contributed to his great skill as a soldier. In 2002, shortly after graduating from high school, Corporal Zamora enlisted in the Army, fully knowing that his country would soon be going to war abroad. This brave decision illustrates the selflessness that endeared Corporal Zamora in the hearts of his family members, his friends, and his brothers in arms. It also demonstrates his passionate, disciplined approach to service and the selfless demeanor that is at the core of what the American Army prides its servicemembers on honor, duty, humility, and loyalty.

His mother Paola, stepfather Sergio, sister Christy, are all in our thoughts. His brother Tyrel is another brave member of the U.S. Army, and I hope that we can soon guarantee him a swift and safe journey home.

Corporal Zamora was assigned as an infantryman to the 101st Airborne Division. We can never fully express our gratitude for our veterans' service; I ask that we stop now to thank Corporal Zamora and acknowledge the sacrifice of his family for their Nation.

POPULARITY OF "GROUNDHOG DAY"

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, yesterday and a few weeks ago, I invoked the movie "Groundhog Day" starring Bill Murray to provide a perspective on consideration of our tax reconciliation package. For the edification of my esteemed colleagues and other interested parties, I ask unanimous consent that an article originally published in the February 14, 2005, issue of "National Review" titled, "A Movie for All Time," be printed in the RECORD. This article provides some information on the film and its enduring popularity.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the National Review, Feb. 14, 2005]

A MOVIE FOR ALL TIME

(By Jonah Goldberg)

Here's a line, you'll either recognize, or you won't: "This is one time where television really fails to capture the true excitement of a large squirrel predicting the weather." If you don't recognize this little gem, you've either never seen *Groundhog Day* or you're not a fan of what is, in my opinion, one of the best films of the last 40 years. As the day of the groundhog again approaches, it seems only fitting to celebrate what will almost undoubtedly join *It's a Wonderful Life* in the pantheon of America's most uplifting, morally serious, enjoyable, and timeless movies.

When I set out to write this article, I thought it'd be fun to do a quirky homage to an offbeat flick, one I think is brilliant as both comedy and moral philosophy. But while doing what I intended to be cursory research—how much reporting do you need for a review of a twelve-year-old movie that plays constantly on cable?—I discovered that I wasn't alone in my interest. In the years since its release the film has been taken up by Jews, Catholics, Evangelicals, Hindus, Buddhists, Wiccans, and followers of the oppressed Chinese Falun Gong movement. Meanwhile, the Internet brims with weighty philosophical treatises on the deep Platonist, Aristotelian, and existentialist themes providing the skin and bones beneath the film's clown makeup. On National Review Online's group blog, *The Corner*, I asked readers to send in their views on the film. Over 200 e-mails later I had learned that countless professors use it to teach ethics and a host of philosophical approaches. Several pastors sent me excerpts from sermons in which *Groundhog Day* was the central metaphor. And dozens of committed Christians of all denominations related that it was one of their most cherished movies.

When the Museum of Modern Art in New York debuted a film series on "The Hidden God: Film and Faith" two years ago, it opened with *Groundhog Day*. The rest of the films were drawn from the ranks of turgid and bleak intellectual cinema, including standards from Ingmar Bergman and Roberto Rossellini. According to the New York Times, curators of the series were stunned to discover that so many of the 35 leading literary and religious scholars who had been polled to pick the series entries had chosen *Groundhog Day* that a spat had broken out among the scholars over who would get to write about the film for the catalogue. In a wonderful essay for the Christian magazine *Touchstone*, theology professor Michael P. Foley wrote that *Groundhog Day* is "a stunning allegory of moral, intellectual, and even religious excellence in the face of postmodern decay, a sort of Christian-Aristotelian Pilgrim's Progress for those lost in the contemporary cosmos." Charles Murray, author of *Human Accomplishment*, has cited *Groundhog Day* more than once as one of the few cultural achievements of recent times that will be remembered centuries from now. He was quoted in *The New Yorker* declaring, "It is a brilliant moral fable offering an Aristotelian view of the world."

I know what you're thinking: We're talking about the movie in which Bill Murray tells a big rat sitting on his lap, "Don't drive angry," right? Yep, that's the one. You might like to know that the rodent in question is actually Jesus—at least that's what film historian Michael Bronski told the Times. "The groundhog is clearly the resurrected Christ, the ever-hopeful renewal of life at springtime, at a time of pagan-Christian holidays. And when I say that the groundhog is Jesus, I say that with great respect."

That may be going overboard, but something important is going on here. What is it about this ostensibly farcical film about a wisecracking weatherman that speaks to so many on such a deep spiritual level?

THOROUGHLY POSTMODERN PHIL

A recap is in order. Bill Murray, the movie's indispensable and perfect lead, plays Phil Connors, a Pittsburgh weatherman with delusions of grandeur (he unselfconsciously refers to himself as "the talent"). Accompanied by his producer and love interest, Rita (played by Andie MacDowell), and a cameraman (Chris Elliott), Connors goes on assignment to cover the *Groundhog Day* festival in Punxsutawney, Pa., at which "Punxsutawney Phil"—a real groundhog—comes out of his hole to reveal how much longer winter will last. Connors believes he's too good for the assignment—and for Punxsutawney, Pittsburgh, and everything in between. He is a thoroughly postmodern man: arrogant, world-weary, and contemptuous without cause.

Rita tells Phil that people love the groundhog story, to which he responds, "People like blood sausage, too, people are morons." Later, at the *Groundhog Festival*, she tells him: "You're missing all the fun. These people are great! Some of them have been partying all night long. They sing songs 'til they get too cold and then they go sit by the fire and get warm and then they come back and sing some more." Phil replies, "Yeah, they're hicks, Rita."

Phil does his reporting schtick when the groundhog emerges and plans to head home as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, a blizzard stops him at the outskirts of town. A state trooper explains that the highway's closed: "Don't you watch the weather reports?" the cop asks. Connors replies (blasphemously, according to some), "I make the weather!" Moving on, the cop explains he can either turn around to Punxsutawney or freeze to death. "Which is it?" he asks. Connors answers, "I'm thinking, I'm thinking." Reluctantly returning to Punxsutawney, Connors spends another night in a sweet little bed and breakfast run by the sort of un-ironic, un-hip, decent folks he considers hicks.

The next morning, the clock radio in his room goes off and he hears the same radio show he'd heard the day before, complete with a broadcast of "I Got You Babe" and the declaration, "It's *Groundhog Day*!" At first, Connors believes it's an amateurish gaffe by a second-rate radio station. But slowly he discovers it's the same day all over again. "What if there is no tomorrow?" he asks. "There wasn't one today!"

And this is the plot device for the whole film, which has seeped into the larger culture. Indeed, "*Groundhog Day*" has become shorthand for (translating nicely) "same stuff, different day." Troops in Iraq regularly use it as a rough synonym for "snafu," which (also translated nicely) means "situation normal: all fouled-up." Connors spends an unknown number of days repeating the exact same day over and over again. Everyone else experiences that day for the "first" time, while Connors experiences it with Sisyphian repetition. Estimates vary on how many actual *Groundhog Days* Connors endures. We see him relive 34 of them. But many more are implied. According to Harold Ramis, the co-writer and director, the original script called for him to endure 10,000 years in Punxsutawney, but it was probably closer to ten.

But this is a small mystery. A far more important one is why the day repeats itself and why it stops repeating at the end. Because the viewer is left to draw his own conclusions, we have what many believe is the best